

REMARKS

The Office action of April 27, 2004 has been received and its contents carefully noted.

Claims 1-29 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 9, 17, 21, and 23 have been amended. Claims 27-29 have been added.

Claims 1-5, 19, and 21-26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being unpatentable over Duncan et al. ("Duncan") (U.S. Patent No. 6,459,517). Claims 6-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Duncan. Claims 9-18, and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Duncan in view of Sikorski. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections, and request allowance thereof in the continuation prosecution application for the following reasons.

The Claims are Patentable Over the Cited References

Claims 1-5, 19, and 21-26 are not anticipated by Duncan

Claims 1-5, 19, and 21-26 stand rejected under § 102(e) in view of Duncan. Duncan fails to disclose the features recited in these claims as amended such as a faceplate extension, projecting and having an unthreaded interior surface extending outwardly from said conductive faceplate, surrounding the periphery of the faceplate opening, and forming an electrostatic or electromagnetic waveguide.

In strong contrast to the recited feature of a faceplate extension projecting from and surrounding the periphery of the

faceplate opening, Duncan expressly teaches using a faceplate extension that projects from within the faceplate opening and therefore is instead surrounded by the periphery of the faceplate opening (see FIGs. 1, 3; col. 8, lines 20-23). Particularly, Duncan states that "...when properly positioned, the grounding springs 42 that surround the outer periphery of pipe 12 (of the EMI shield 10) at end 16 engage with an inner edge of the aperture 48 (of the tailstock 46)." (see FIGs. 1, 3; col. 8, lines 20-23).

Duncan expressly teaches using a faceplate extension with connecting members (the grounding springs 42) that engage the inner edge of the faceplate opening (aperture 48) to produce a faceplate extension that is surrounded by the faceplate opening in contrast to a faceplate extension projecting from and surrounding the periphery of the faceplate opening as recited. Duncan expressly teaches a contrasting arrangement for the faceplate extension making the claimed invention patentably distinct and non-obvious from the cited reference.

Claims 6-8 are not made obvious by Duncan

Claims 6-8 stand rejected under § 103(a) in view of Duncan. As contended above, the recited feature of a faceplate extension projecting from and surrounding the periphery of the faceplate opening is significantly distinct from Duncan's disclosure of a faceplate extension surrounded by the faceplate opening making the claimed invention non-obvious from the cited reference.

Claims 9-18, and 20 are not made obvious by Duncan and Sikorsky

Claims 9-18, and 20 stand rejected under § 103(a) in view of Duncan and Sikorsky. As contended above, the recited feature of a faceplate extension projecting from and surrounding the periphery of the faceplate opening is significantly distinct from Duncan's disclosure of a faceplate extension surrounded by the faceplate opening. Further, Sikorsky discloses a shielded optical fiber adaptor that also extends from within the faceplate opening producing a faceplate opening that surrounds the extension in contrast to the recited feature.

Duncan and Sikorsky, either alone or in combination, fail to disclose a faceplate extension projecting from and surrounding the periphery of the faceplate opening as recited making the claimed invention patentably distinct and non-obvious from the cited references.

Conclusion

In view of the amendments and remarks submitted above, it is respectfully submitted that all of the remaining claims are allowable and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (703)
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Respectfully submitted,

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